



# Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road  
Groton, CT 06340-4394  
Town Clerk 860-441-6640  
Town Manager  
860-441-6630

## Meeting Minutes

### Representative Town Meeting

**Moderator Christine Conley, Representatives Karin Adams, Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joseph Baril, Alicia Bauer, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, John A. Espada, Robert M. Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Meyer, Douglas Monaghan, Karen Morton, Kathy Neugent, Scott Newsome, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Shawn Powers, John F. Scott IV, Richard Semeraro, Bill Smith, Judith Strobe, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Fred Turnbull, Patricia Wagner, Richard Waselik, Lori A. Watrous, Ivy R. Williams and Jonathan E. Wilson**

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Wednesday, April 9, 2014

7:30 PM

Groton Senior Center

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#### Regular Meeting

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#### A. ROLL CALL

*Moderator Christine Conley called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.  
29 members were present and a quorum was declared.*

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Rep. Adams, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. Espada, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Heede, Rep. Longino, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Luck, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Morton, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Parker, Rep. Powers, Rep. Scott, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Smith, Rep. Strobe, Rep. Turnbull, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous and Rep. Wilson  
Members Absent: Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Svencer, Rep. Swindell, Rep. Waselik and Rep. Williams

*Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Town Councilor Bob Frink, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Deputy Town Clerk Janet Downs.*

#### B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

*The members joined the Moderator in the Salute to the Flag.*

#### C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2014

*A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Scott, seconded by Rep. Garcia.  
The vote on approval of the minutes carried 28 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention. (Abstaining: Rep. Morton.)*

#### D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

*None.*

#### E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

*The Moderator announced that at a Seventh District caucus held prior to this meeting, Karen Morton was elected to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Jack Sebastian.*

*Reps. DeMatto, Harrell, Svencer, Pasqualini and Williams are unable to attend tonight's meeting.*

*All RTM committees have scheduled meetings to discuss their assignments for the upcoming budget sessions. Committee members should inform the chair or the Clerk's office if they are unable to attend.*

*The Annual Budget Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday April 30. Members who have questions or concerns about the budget sessions may contact Betsy or Janet at the Clerk's office.*

#### F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

**1. Financial report**

*Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of June 30, 2013 is approximately \$11.3 million; the General Contingency balance is \$335,350; the Capital Reserve balance is approximately \$2.5 million as of January 31, 2014.*

**2. Monthly briefing**

*Mr. Oefinger reviewed items from the Town Manager's News including the Town's bond rating; Phase II of the Mystic Streetscape; United Way campaign awards; receipt of the 2014 Excellence in Library Public Service Award by Groton Public Library; an article naming Groton as one of the best places to live in Connecticut; a summary of the Grand List; the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day schedule; and the decision on the City Highway budget.*

*Responding to a question from Rep. Granatosky, Mr. Oefinger noted that the decision on the City Highway budget is final for FYE 2014. There is no appeal.*

**G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

*None.*

**H. LIAISON REPORTS****1. Economic Development Commission**

*Rep. Deane-Shinbrot reviewed items discussed at the March 6, 2014 meeting, including public communications that focused on frustrations with the Planning Department; the Mystic Streetscape and Central Hall projects; and efforts to market the Chipperini property on Route 12 and Pleasant Valley Road. Discussion at the April 3, 2014 meeting centered on economic development and the lease of space in Pfizer Building 230.*

**2. RTM Economic Development Corporation Task Force**

*Chairman John Scott reported that the task force has met twice. At the first meeting, the concept of the economic development corporation was discussed. At the second meeting, a quorum was not present, but smaller groups were formed to meet with other area economic development corporations. The task force is working on a board of directors and a charter. The next meeting will be held on April 17, 2014.*

*Responding to Rep. Powers about legal ramifications, Rep. Scott noted that this issue is within the purview of the RTM.*

**3. Town & City Council/RTM/Board of Education Liaison Committee**

*Rep. Massett reviewed the meetings of March 5 and April 2, 2014 at which the following items were discussed: playing fields, the status of vacant schools, shared services, contract negotiations and school security. The next meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2014.*

*Responding to a question from Rep. Smith, Town Manager Oefinger spoke about the current usage of the Town's vacant schools.*

*In answer to Rep. Scott, Mr. Oefinger reviewed the recommendations of the Groton Heights Reuse Task Force. He also noted that there are mold issues at both Groton Heights and Noank School.*

**I. COMMITTEE REPORTS****1. FINANCE - Chairman Granatosky**

*No meeting; no report.*

**2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES -Chairman Semeraro**

*No meeting; no report.*

**3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell**

*No meeting; no report.*

**4. RECREATION - Chairman Svencer**

*No meeting; no report.*

**5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Pasqualini**

*No meeting; no report.*

**6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Heede**

*No meeting; no report.*

**7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Ambroise**

*No meeting; no report.*

**J. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

*Rep. Scott was disturbed by discussion of the City Police budget at last night's meeting of the RTM Finance Committee. He suggested that since consolidation of Groton's three police departments seems unlikely, the RTM should move to disband the Town Police Department and contract with the City to provide police protection to the Town.*

*Moderator Conley replied that the RTM has no authority to disband the Town Police Department, but does have the option to approve or disapprove funding.*

*Responding to Rep. Massett, the Moderator confirmed that at the upcoming budget sessions, no new accounts will be taken up after 10:00 p.m. unless agreed to by a majority of those present.*

*Answering Rep. Massett's concern about what constitutes a frivolous motion, Moderator Conley noted that RTM Rules give the Moderator the authority to make that decision. She added that a motion can be made to change the Rules.*

**K. OTHER BUSINESS**

*None.*

**L. ADJOURNMENT**

*A motion to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. was made by Rep. Monaghan, seconded by Rep. Garcia and so voted unanimously.*

*Attest:*

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk  
Clerk of the RTM*

*Janet L. Downs, Deputy Town Clerk*